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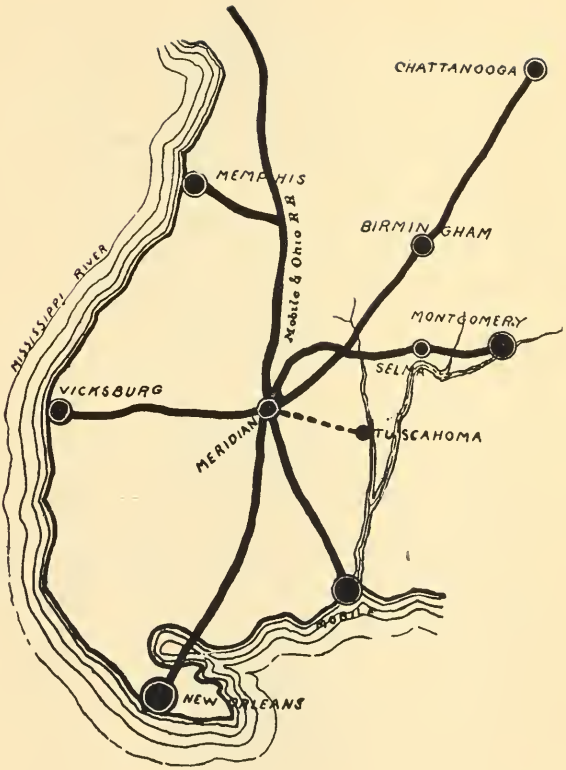
By GRAY & MURPHEY.


CHATTANOOGA
MEMPHIS
Mobile & Ohio R.R.
BIRMINGHAM
MONTGOMERY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
SELMA
VICKSBURG
MERIDIAN
TUSCAHOMA
MOBILE
NEW ORLEANS

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MERIDIAN AND EAST MISSISSIPPI.

IN THE haze of a generalization that is indefinite and unsatisfactory, suggesting only the meagre outline of things, and pronounced in such description as a growing city, an enterprising community, a prosperous town, etc., Meridian has gained some reputation abroad and possibly, here and there, arrested the attention of those who are looking Southward for new fields of investment and enterprise. But there has been wanting that definite and specific information so necessary to a just appreciation of the quantities and qualities that have contributed to make this fame. It is known that the city is progressive; that she is constantly reaching out after better things; that in her municipal equipment she is forging forward to a foremost place among the more ambitious cities of the South; that she has constantly builded with a view to an increasing greatness and that today, her plans, justified in experience, are broader and her foundations laid deeper than ever before. It is also known that her citizenship is self-reliant and no city of equal pretensions in the country owes so little to outside or foreign capital.

These things are commonly recognized; but the agencies at have produced these results, the causes that under lie the patent and manifest effect have never been presented in such shape as to obtain that appreciation, either at home or abroad, that they so eminently merit; and it is with a view to accounting for Meridian's constant and continuous advancement and her own people's faith in the promise of the future that this work is undertaken. We propose to show how and why a prosperous and growing city has been built on the hills of East Mississippi, and what those influences are that confirm and strengthen our confidence in the possibilities of further development.

We realize that nothing can be more detrimental to the permanent prosperity of any community than the affliction commonly known as "a boom;" nothing more hurtful to any city than this dissemination of extravagant and exagerated statements relating to those things that are generally supposed to be influential in attracting immigration or capital. The experience of other adventures in this direction conveys a lesson that no community can afford to ignore. The disappointment, disaster and ruin that have followed in the wake of such exploitation, involving in a common cataclysm, alike, the betrayer and the betrayed, make a woeful story that everywhere casts its shadows across the otherwise bright record of our country's development during the last decade, when the rays of Aladin's lamp were turned upon every new town to mislead alike the stranger and the confiding citizen at home; pretentious structures turned into rookeries for the owl and bat, streets haunted by the gibbing spectres of departed fortunes; corner lots that are the grave yards of many a fair hope, these make the blot and blemish upon the landscape in nearly every Southern and Western States mute testimonies to the crime and folly of The Boom during the ten years from 1880 to 1890. Happily for us, during this epoch of speculation, the angel of misfortune passed over our doors and permitted us to prosecute unremittingly that healthy, vigorous and normal development that our native forces made possible and inevitable.

Thankful for our escape from this pestilential influence in the past and strenuously guarding against any such visitation upon our fair city in the future, it is our purpose to present Meridian and East Mississippi exactly as they are, relying upon the native comeliness of their features, rather than any extraneous accessaries of art, to commend them to the reader's favor. We propose to make no claim that cannot be substantiated, no statement unsustained by facts and present no facts that cannot be verified upon investation.

HISTORICAL.

Our estimation of a man's capacity for achievement is usually based upon the things that he has accomplished; we want to know something of his record before we give him our perfect confidence, and so in presenting the claims of Meridian for consideration it is not improper to refer briefly to the results already achieved by those inherent forces that make her character, and a short summary of her growth from villagehood to her present dignity will not be out of place.

Less than fifty years ago, what is now the city of Meridian, was a comparative wilderness with stately pines and spreading oaks upon its hills, with fields of cotton and corn on its gentle slopes, while almost an impenetrable marsh extended over grounds on which there have been some of our best business houses and private residences erected. The plantation home of Richard McLemore, now the property of John O'Neil, was the most prominent building, and there was a frame house of worship on the hill just above the McLemore Cemetery, known as the "Oakey Valley Baptist Church."

As early as 1851, John T. Ball, then of Wahalak, Kemper county, determined to purchase lands at the proposed crossing of the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and the extension of what was called the Vicksburg and Montgomery railroad. He did not carry out his purpose until 1853, when he secured eighty acres of what is now known as his survey. Meanwhile, Louis A. Ragsdale, of Alabama, who had arrived at a similar conclusion, anticipated him a few days and purchased the McLemore farm, the most desirable location.

These gentlemen soon had their lands surveyed into lots, but were unable to give clear titles until after the close of the civil war. Mr. Ball began to improve at once, building a double log cabin for a residence and putting up a rough hut for a store—which he placed in charge of Alfred Beck. The place was known in the country as "Ball's Store," but the M. & O. R. R. would only honor it with a "flag station," and designated it as "Sowashee." On the other hand, Mr. Ragsdale had his purchase mapped out as "Ragsdale City." A rough depot put up by the citizens at their own expense, was all that could be obtained for a while, and this was in charge of W. F. Brown, without direct compensation.

Such was the status of things when the writer visited the place in the summer of 1856. Mr. Ragsdale kept the only hotel. The Vicksburg railroad was only running to Brandon. A little later lots were sold in McLemore's survey towards West End, and new residences began to appear. Meanwhile, Mr. Ball had secured a postoffice, giving it the name of Meridian, and I. S. O. G. Greer had obtained a charter from the Legislature in that name. About the same time W. L. Spinks began the publication of a newspaper in the town and called it "The Meridian." So, when the railroad from the West reached Sowashee Station, by mutual consent all titles were merged into the one Meridian.

What was called the Northeastern road was built to York, Ala., a distance of 27 miles, before the war. Soon after hostilities commenced the Selma road was connected with it there, and later the Vicksburg road joined at Meridian. This was done partly for military purposes, which made the place a stragetic point. Capt. Spinks having gone into the army, his paper was suspended—he laid down his life for his country. Col. J. J. Shannon moved here with

the "Clarion" from Paulding. Though its office was destroyed by Sherman's raid, it built again and continued until after the surrender, when being chosen for the State work, its proprietors took it to Jackson.

An interesting contest for the court house occurred before the war and another soon after. In the first, Marion, the old county seat, was victorious, in the latter, Marion Station, on the M. & O. R. R.

During the days of reconstruction, Meridian was made the county seat by an act of the Legislature. Old Marion, though the capitol of Lauderdale for years, after the removal of the court house, being off the railroad, gradually disappeared, and now only the remains of a chimney mark its former site.

It was only by continuous struggles that Meridian urged its way. People in the country showed it little favor; it was not allowed station rates of freight at first, and land holders either would not sell or discouraged purchasers by fancy prices.

During the war Meridian was necessarily a place of importance. It became department headquarters. Hence it was the objective point of General Sherman when he started East from Vicksburg. The Confederate forces fell back to Demopolis, and the Federal army occupied the post about a week, while engaged in tearing up railroad track, destroying grist mills and burning, say, seventy houses.

With the restoration of peace, however, our city, then a village of about 500 inhabitants, grew rapidly in population. The completion of the Alabama and Chattanooga railroad was the beginning of a new era, but, unfortunately, it was of short duration, as the panic of 1873 threw it into bankruptcy. Our people lost much thereby, and the accidental burning of a remarkably successful cotton mill, with very

light insurance, about the same period, brought general depression, which lasted several years.

All this passed away by 1879, when Meridian entered upon a basis of permanent prosperity. Business revived rapidly; new lines of communication were soon established. The N. O. & N. E. railroad was completed, and the A. G. S. put in full operation, which made our city a commercial centre. All kinds of improvements followed, until we have a large number of extensive factories, the best of school houses, churches of all denominations, and a law-loving, generous, hospitable population of about 16,000. Building and Loan Associations have enabled hundreds of wage earners to secure good homes, and our banks have maintained perfect integrity, even during the nation's panic. And now comes the sewerage and proposed street pavements and side walks. With these well done and additional electric lights and street cars, we will have a model city.

HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS.

As surpassing every other consideration in the estimate of the immigrant or investor, the question of health naturally comes first. It is gratifying to us to be enabled to satisfy every inquiry on this score by simply presenting the able report of Dr. N. L. Guice on this subject, prepared at the request of the Young Men's Business League and which is here printed by authority:

Report Upon the Sanitary Condition of Meridian.

BY DR. N. L. GUICE,

Ex-President Mississippi State Medical Association; Member American Public Health Association; Member American Medical Association, and a distinguished writer upon Medical and Sanitary Topics.

To the Y. M. B. League: In response to your request I present below a few facts relative to the past and present sanitary condition of our city:

First, it may be appropriate to say that Meridian is situated in the midst of an immense yellow pine region, and is surrounded on all sides with dense forests of the original growth of pine. The surface of the country composing this region is elevated and uneven. In fact, it is made up largely of ridges and hills, and is abundantly drained by streams of pure soft water. The atmosphere possesses that quality of purity which is universally conceded to all the pine regions of this country, and is charged with an aroma which is supplied by the ever-green leaf of the pine. This terebinthinate principle is injurious to none and is thought to be advantageous to persons who are inclined to pulmonary disease.

Coming now to the city proper, we find that Meridian stands upon a surface which is elevated and uneven; in fact,

it is dotted all over with hills, ridges and narrow valleys, We are thus insured a most perfect system of natural drainage. All storm water flows rapidly from the surface, and after reaching the larger drains, ditches and culverts in the different parts of the city, it is speedily conveyed to Sowashee creek. This creek is a stream of considerable magnitude, which traverses the entire Southern border of the city.

The soil of the city is freely intermixed with sand and gravel and is hence porous and dry. Combining then, the elevated and undulating nature of the surface with the sandy and porous character of the soil, we have that happy combination which insures a condition of dryness, which is recognized by all sanitarians as being most favorable to health. Dr. Parkes, in his most excellent work, (Practical Hygiene) says, Page 296, that "the health of a locality is intimately connected with the nature of the soil on which the houses are built. It is generally believed that the most porous soils—the gravel and the sands—are the healthiest because they are the dryest, and this view in the main is correct."

When we take into consideration the unhealthy or the disease-producing tendencies of damp soils, we can better appreciate the value to health of the opposite or dry soil. Dr. Parkes, previously quoted, and who is one of the most distinguished authorities on the subject of hygiene, claims that "this condition of dampness and moisture in the site and air of a house, is one credited by universal experience with the production of rheumatism, catarrh, neuralgia and all affections of a bronchial and pulmonary nature, and is probably a strong predisposing factor in the production of dyptheria outbreaks. * * * The researches of Dr. Bodich, of Boston, U. S. A., have conclusively shown that there is an intimate connection between moisture of soil and destructive diseases of the lungs." Knowing, then,

as we do, the amount of sickness, suffering and death which is caused by the list of diseases above mentioned, and estimating at their true value, in the scientific world, the men whose language I have quoted, we should not fail to place adequate value upon the dry soil of our city.

Meridian is remarkably free from malaria and malarial diseases. This is an item of special and vast importance and should be given adequate prominence in every estimate of sanitary condition of this city.

While engaged in the practice of medicine here, I have been struck with the paucity of malarial fevers and other diseases arising from that wide-spread and poisonous emanation which is known as malaria, and which is truly very uncommon within the corporate limits of the city. And such cases as do occur are confined chiefly to the banks of Sowashee creek which stream as before stated, runs along the extreme southern border of the city. This part of the city, as we all know, is far removed from the residence portion and is very sparsely settled, there being only an occasional house on either bank of the creek.

Malaria is known to be one of the greatest enemies of the Caucasian race. It is pronounced and widely diffused over immense areas of the North American continent, and any city or locality which may successfully establish the fact that it is free from its presence and harmful influences, should at once become a centre of attraction, both for capital and immigration.

The absence of malaria from Meridian does not rank as a special providence, nor as an unaccountable phenomenon in nature, but may be truly and scientifically attributed to the dry and porous character of the soil. It is maintained by that distinguished hygienist, Dr. Parkes, that "the connection between malaria and damp, marshy soils is firmly estab-

lished." The presence of much vegetable debris in the soil, together with sufficient moisture and warm temperature, are the usual factors determining the development of the malarial agent and the onset of ague and intermittent fevers. (Op. cit. page.—)

In many instances, in truth, as is justly claimed by Dr. Parkes and other hygienists, districts which were originally malarious have been rēndered healthful by means of artificial subsoil drainage, or even alone by the planting of trees, which latter drain the soil by means of evaporation from the green leaves of the growing timber. And the fact is established that an oak tree will evaporate 8 1-2 times the volume of water falling upon the area covered by the same. Thus it is that the large number of oaks growing in Meridian serve to contribute to the health of the city by contributing, in their way, to the dryness of the soil.

Typhoid fever is rapidly disappearing from our catalogue of diseases. It is questionable, in truth, whether or not there was a single typical case of this fever in the city since 1893. And I will assert, without fear of contradiction, that Meridian is as free from typhoid fever as any city of its size in this country.

Typhoid fever is a preventable disease and is due in all cases to bad hygienic conditions. When it prevailed in this city it was due mainly to bad water. The citizens were then compelled to resort to shallow wells as the only possible source of drinking water. These wells were dug upon every inhabited lot and were from 25 to 75 feet deep. Every sanitarian is familiar with the dangers incident to the consumption of such water, in either city, town or village. Such wells are in constant danger of contamination with filth from the surface and are prolific breeders, especially of typhoid fever.

Eight years ago the city was first supplied with pure water by means of a complete waterworks system. This water is obtained from a mountain rivulet of pure soft water. The advent of this water was followed by the gradual closing of the private wells and also by the steady disappearance of typhoid fever and other diseases resulting from the consumption of impure water. But the decline of these diseases would have been more rapid but for the fact that many of the inhabitants refused to give up their private wells.

It should be remembered that Meridian, with a population of 15,000 to 17,000 people, and with such limited hygienic resources as is implied in pure water and good natural drainage has been able to maintain a death rate as low as fourteen per thousand of inhabitants. Meanwhile, we have had to encounter a miserable surface privy system, with absolutely no means of disposing of kitchen and house garbage, together with all such refuse as is usually carried off through the agency of a sewerage system. Truly, it would be difficult for any city, with or without sewerage facilities, to present a better mortuary record.

But this fact can be better shown and appreciated by comparing the death rate of Meridian with that of a number of other cities of the United States and foreign countries.

The following table from the report of the tenth census shows for each of thirty-one registration cities the number of deaths during the year ending June 1st, 1880, to each thousand of population. It will be noticed that the death rates are given for the whole population, and with classification, in the case of six Southern cities by color :

CITIES.	
Cambridge	17.46
Camden	18.17
Nashville	18.22

CITIES.

Worcester		18.40
Lynn		18.65
Newark		19.20
Lowell		19.20
St. Louis		20.07
Cleveland		20.14
Jersey City		20.27
Philadelphia		20.40
Milwaukee		20.49
San Francisco		20.50
Chicago		20.77
Lawrence		20.99
Pittsburgh		21.05
Cincinnati		21.35
Wilmington		21.42
Providence		21.54
Paterson		22.12
Brooklyn		22.24
Indianapolis		22.27
Boston		22.32
Louisville	White	20.04
	Colored	34.76
	Both together	22.53
Washington	White	17.80
	Colored	35.45
	Both together	23.61
Fall River		24.42
Richmond	White	19.12
	Colored	31.97
	Both together	24.75
Baltimore	White	22.71
	Colored	37.61
	Both together	25.12

CITIES.

New York		25.37
New Orleans	White	22.41
	Colored	35.61
Both together		25.94
Charleston	White	23.78
	Colored	45.00
Both together		35.37
Mean total (thirty-one cities)		22.28

For several foreign cities the death-rates in 1880 were as follows:

London	22.14
Liverpool	27.22
Paris	26.48
Madrid	40.18
Odessa	37.28
Havana	40.64
Amsterdam	26.96
Dublin	35.94
Berlin	29.24
Bremen	20.89
Vienna	28.17
Glasgow	22.53
Edinburgh	21.50
Rio de Janerio	33.22
Stockholm	28.79
Melbourn and suburbs	19.18

The death-rate of Meridian, as above stated, is only fourteen in the thousand. It is evident, therefore, by comparison that this figure is decidedly lower than that of any city mentioned in the foregoing tables. And it should be remembered, also, that these cites, with few exceptions, were

well sewered at the time these statistics were made, thus giving them great advantage in the matter of facilities for maintaining a good sanitary condition, or, in other words, for guarding their inhabitants against sickness and death.

Heretofore, as I have previously shown, Meridian has had no sewerage, but this great sanitary requirement of every city is now being supplied. The contractors are rapidly nearing the completion for us of what is known as the waring system of sewerage, and in fact, the work will be completed within the present month (April). This system of sewerage has received the endorsement—nay, more—it has commanded the admiration for efficiency of hygienists and sanitarians in both Europe and America, and it is in truth one of if not the best known systems. With this sewerage completed and in operation the city will be able, without doubt or difficulty, to maintain a most perfect sanitary condition and even to lower the present death-rate of fourteen per thousand.

Thus, gentlemen, have I sought to show that Meridian offers to her present and prospective inhabitants such assurances of their ability to maintain health as are implied in the combination of pure air, pure water, a dry and porous soil, thorough surface drainage, absence of malaria and a perfect system of sewerage.

Being already a city of churches, and hence, of good morals, Meridian should justly be made a center of education. Her already numerous and prosperous schools should be increased by the rapid addition of others. As the *mens sano in sano corpore* is an indispensable condition of all education it behooves the parent and guardian to seek in the education of their wards and children, only such locations as present the most perfect sanitary conditions. With such surroundings there is little danger that the growth and de-

velopment of the mind and body would be antagonized by the blighting influences of physical suffering.

There is no obstacle to the constant supply of the purest water for this city. Should the present supply prove, at any time, inadequate, inexhaustible quantities can be furnished by means of artesian wells. This important fact was established last year (1894) by the sinking of the John Kamper Ice Co's well. This well is located in the center of the city, and is 780 feet in depth. The water issues from a bed of quicksand; is clear, soft and pure, and is, hence, adapted to all the wants of a city.

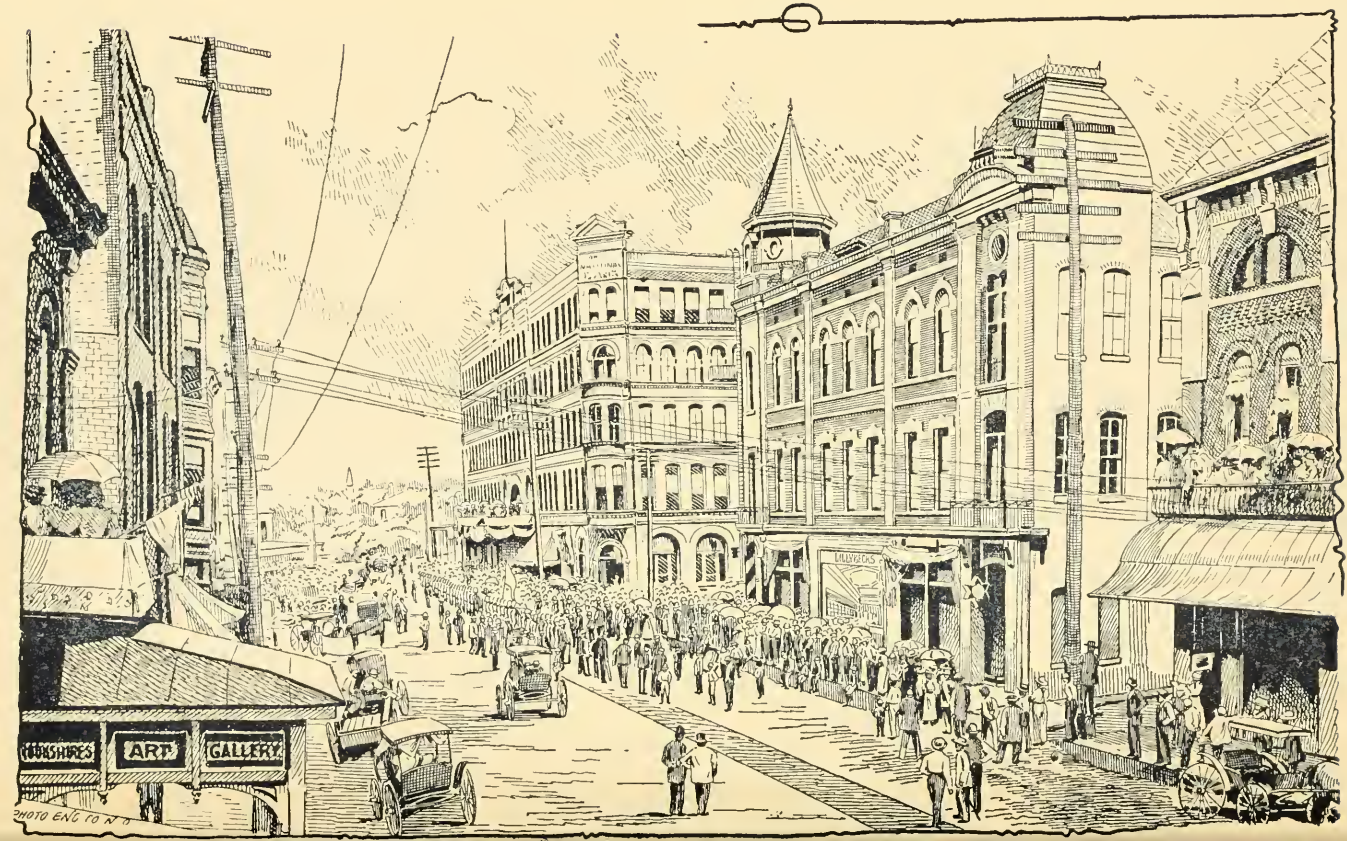
The following analysis of the water of this well was made by Prof. W. L. Hutchinson, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Starkville, Miss., to wit:

GRAINS PER GALLON.

Total Solids	8.189
Consisting of Soluble Silica	.839
Iron Oxide	.353
Aluminica Oxide	.335
Phosphoric Acid	.003
Chlorine	.410
Sulphur Trioxide	.377
Lime (Calcium Oxide)	.513
Magnesium Oxide	.056
Pottassium Oxide	.276
Sodium Oxide	2.658

Social.

There is perhaps, no large town in the United States where the social status of the individual is more emphatically fixed by moral worth than in Meridian. Equally removed from the extremes of wealth and poverty, owning neither paupers nor millionaires, there are no class distinctions save those that distinguish the worker from the loafer,


ART
GALLERY

the honest man from the rogue, the moral from the immoral, the educated from the ignorant. But in our social economy, worthiness is the supreme test, and it is inexorably applied in every relation of life. A potent moral influence dominates the community, and all who seek social position here must conform to it.

A cordial welcome and the kindliest hospitality awaits every new comer in the midst of us; the right hand of fellowship is at once extended and never withdrawn except for sufficient cause. No one ever asks any question as to the politics, place of birth or religion of the stranger; whether Democrat, Republican or Populist, whether from Maine or Florida, whether Jew or Gentile, the same welcome and kindly consideration awaits him. if only he will make a good citizen. It may be said right here that a large proportion of our most influential citizens in every line of business came from north of Mason and Dixon line, and the social status of their families is unquestioned.

The refinements of society prevail here ; and culture, along the lines of music, art and literature is stimulated by clubs or societies devoted to the study of each, whose membership embraces ladies and gentlemen of every calling. The homes of Meridian, in their exquisite gardens and beautiful grounds, their architectural beauty and the taste displayed in their interior finish, furnishing and decoration abundantly attest the appreciation in which these things are held. The two leading social clubs, each of which owns handsome quarters, luxuriously funished with all the accessories of comfort and ease, are the Calumet and the Standard, to the one or the other which most of the leading young men of the city belong.

The drama is here encouraged and one of the handsomest and best appointed theatres affords, during a season of seven months, entertainment by the best histrionic talent in the

country. A regularly organized Lyceum bureau contributes every winter to intellectual entertainment by bringing hither some of the most distinguished platform orators known to fame.

Location.

Situated at the junction of five railroads, within 135 miles of Mobile and 196 miles of New Orleans, within easy reach of the coal and iron fields of Alabama and in the very heart of the finest timber regions of the South, surrounded by cotton fields producing the finest varieties of upland cotton, built upon an elevation of nearly 400 feet above the sea and absolutely free of malaria, Meridian's future is absolutely secure. There are conditions that are universally recognized as infallible in fixing the commercial and industrial destiny of a city, and those noted confirm confidence in the continued growth and development so auspiciously begun.

Manufacturing Facilties.

While surrounded by a thrifty and prosperous agricultural people whose trade must inevitably assure a large degree of commercial activity, sufficient always to sustain a town of respectable proportions, our people have not ignored the wonderful advantages enjoyed for manufactures, and the energies of our citizenship are directed towards building here a city whose strength will abide in its internal industrial resources. We possess these advantages:

1st. Proximity to the raw material.

2nd. Easy accessibility to the markets of the world and low rates of freight.

3d. Cheap fuel.

4th. An abundance of labor unaffected by the disorders that embarrass industrial operations elsewhere.

5th. Exemption of all factories from taxation by the State Constitution for ten years.

6th. An all pervading public sentiment that fosters and encourages every manufacturing enterprise that seeks location here.

7th. The absence of any legislation or any suggestion thereof, tending to embarrass the employment of labor.

Recognizing these things, local capital has not been slow to take advantage of them, and the city points with just pride to the splendid success achieved by every factory established in Meridian during the past ten years. Their growth has been constant, and the markets reached by their products constantly enlarging as their capacity expanded.

The following is a list of the manufacturing enterprises in successful operation to-day, giving employment to thousands of people in town and country alike, and it makes no mean showing for a town of 16,000 people, less than 20 years' actual growth, and relying entirely upon its own resources for development:

Meridian Oil Mills.

Capital, $200,000; business in 1894 $500,000; employs 160 hands; weekly pay roll $1,000. This institution uses cotton seed making oil and feed and is the general office for eleven of the mills in the State,

The Eagle Cotton Oil Co.

Capital $75,000; business $150,000; weekly pay roll $350; employs 60 hands; products, oil and feed.

Queen and Crescent Shops.

Employs an average of 400 hands; pay roll about $520,000 annually. This is the general repair shop of the entire system. Engines and cars are all sent there for over-hauling.

New cars are made complete. It is classed the best in the South. An increase in capacity is being prepared for.

Meridian Sash and Blind Factory.

Employs 150 hands; pay roll $1,200 weekly. The concern is a close corporation. It is rated at $250,000 by agencies. It is estimated to be worth $500,0000. It is all home capital, built up from a small saw mill. It is the largest concern of the kind in the South. Its market is the United States. The finest class of carving is done. It put in the finished work of the Forestry Building at the Worlds Fair.

Southern Manufacturing Company.

Makes cow feed and horse feed from cotton seed hulls, cotton seed meal and other ingredients. The business last year exceeded $100,000, an increase of $30,000 over 1893. The works employ 30 hands, with a weekly pay roll of $200. The profit is very good and there is a demand for every pound of product made. Capital $25,000.

Meridian Fertilizer Factory.

Sells 12,000 tons annually, worth $16.00 per ton. The demand for such fertilizers is increasing very rapidly, and there is profit in the product. The factory employs 40 hands, paying out weekly in wages $250.00. This plant sells forty per cent. of the fertilizer sold in the State. The business could be largely increased. Capital $190.000.

Progress Manufacturing Company.

Manufactures hay presses, self-tramping cotton presses, engines, boilers, castings of all kinds. Capital stock $75-000; surplus $5,000; annual business $100,000; employs 60 hands on a weekly pay roll of $700.00. All the money

ever put into the business was $16,000, the business having grown from that sum to its present proportions and is constantly increasing business and territory. An increase is contemplated at an early day in capacity.

Meridian Foundry and Machine Shops.

The capital stock is $20,000 ; the weekly pay roll $400.00 employs 25 hands, and an annual business of $150,000. The company manufactures patent hay presses, engines, boilers and castings. The business has grown from a small beginning and is now in its 13th year. The plant has doubled recently.

Meridian Furniture Factory.

Has a capital stock of $50,000, with an annual output of $100,000, employing 60 hands with a pay roll of $700.00. The plant manufactures all kinds of furniture, from the cheapest to the best, including bank and office furniture. The business is continually increasing in business and capacity.

Meridian Wheel Works.

Manufacturerers ot wheels, hubs and spokes. The plant is new and well equipped. This company employs 40 hands, with a pay roll of $400.00 per week. The capital is $50,000. Output $65,000.

Meridian Spoke Factory.

Has a capital of $15,000, employing 15 hands, with a weekly pay roll of $125.00. The company manufactures spokes, hubs and rims. Business $30,000.

The Meridian Lumber Company.

Has a capital stock of $100,000, with annual output of $200,0000, employing 90 hands, and with a weekly pay roll of $500.00.

Soule & Wall.

Manufacturers of kindling wood from pine logs and stumps by patent process. Capital stock $2,200, employing twelve hands on a weekly pay roll of $125.00.

Soule Steam Feed Works.

Manufacturers of patent saw mill steam feed. Capital $25,000, with a pay roll of $250.00, employing fifteen hands.

John Kamper Ice Co.

Capital $30,000, hands employed, fifteen; pay roll $120.00 weekly; capacity thirty tons of ice per day.

Interstate Iron Works.

Capital $50,000, just started; charter increased to $250,000; capacity fifty hands; pay roll $600.00 weekly; manufactures heavy irrigating and pumping machinery, dredges and sugar machinery. This is a new industy, growing out of the consolidation of the Ivens Machine Works, of New Orleans, and the Hudnub Iron Co. of Big Rapids, Michigan, chosing this point as a suitable location. This firm does Government contract work.

Southern Standard Press Co.

Has a capital of $15,000; employs twelve hands on a weekly pay roll of $150.00. The company manufactures presses for baling cotton. There is a big demand for the output.

The Love Manufacturing Co.

Corn millers and grain dealers. The capital is $50,000: does a business of $125,000 annually, with a pay roll of $200.00 weekly, employing twenty hands. This firm cannot supply the demand for their products.

Meridian Pottery Co.

Manufactures all kinds of stoneware, fire and paving brick and tiling from native material. The capital is $20,000, doing a business of $75,000 annually, employing thirty-five hands on a weekly pay roll of $400.00.

Meridian Broom Works.

Is a new institution just started; moved here from Tupelo, Miss. Arrangements have been made to grow broom corn locally to supply the factory, and the output will be taken locally. Capital $5,000.00, employing eight hands on a pay roll of $100.00 weekly, with an output of thirty-five dozen brooms per day.

Meridian Chair and Mattress Factory.

Manufacture all grades of mattresses with good sales in contiguous territory. Make staple chairs, handled largely by surrounding merchants. Capital $10,000, employing ten hands on a weekly pay roll of $125.00.

Meridian Bottling Works.

Puts up all kinds cider, soda water and summer drinks. Large local trade. Capital $5,000.00, employing ten hands at a weekly pay roll of $100.00.

Daisy Huller Company.

Manufactures the Daisy Cotton Seed Huller. This institution has just started under a local patent and sells rights to manufacture in other cotton States. The output locally in 1894 was $24,000; pay roll about $100.00 per week; eight hands.

Ruffer Brick Co.

Makes fire and building brick and drain tiles. Capital $10,000, employing fifty men during season on a pay roll of $450.00 per week.

The Mattress Factory

Recently established by Messrs. McDade and Walker is an enterprise the growth and development of which is assured by the energy and intelligence of its promoters.

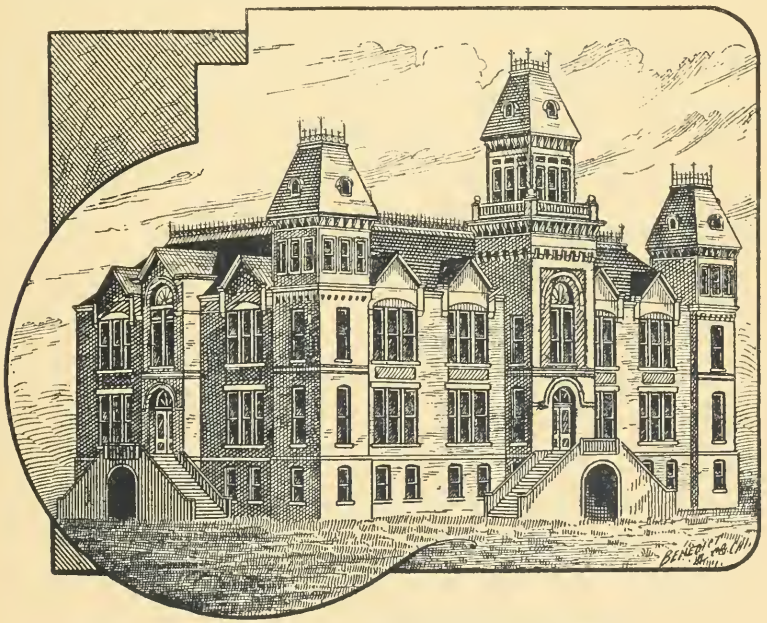
The W. P. Haynes Plaining Mills

Is another flourishing and rapidly growing industry that gives employment to 50 hands, with a pay roll of $420.

But confimed in the conviction that where such splendid results have been achieved upon a limited local capital, still greater possibilities are in store for a larger investment, examination of the resources, opportunities and advantages here afforded is earnestly invited, and the Young Men's Business League is organized for the purpose of facilitating this inquiry. The secretary will always find pleasure in answering, in fullest detail, every question addressed to him.

EDUCATION.

Educational facilities are always an important consideration with that class of citizens whom we most cordially invite to make their homes with us. The State of Mississippi spends more money upon public education in proportion to assessed valuation of property than any other State in the Union, the appropriations for this purpose for the scholastic year of 1892-93, the last of which complete report has been made aggregating $1,320,973, or 7.1 mills as the total assessment of the State. While every community is animated by the same spirit of advancement in this direction, nowhere



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

has there been such achievement in the way of educational progress as has marked the history of Meridian during the past five years. The superb public schools of this city are

equal to the best in the country and are acknowledged models for every city in the State. Five splendid brick structures, admirably furnished and equipped with every modern facility for teaching, testify the liberality of our people in this direction. In these schools the graded or progressive system is employed and the curriculum is equal to that of many colleges, while in point of thoroughness the instruction is far superior.

The following figures from the report of the County Superintendent of Public Education, Hon. W. G. Stevenson, are of interest in this connection:

Number of educable male children in county	5,281
Number of educable female children in county	4,751
Total	10,032
Number of educable male children in city	1,771
Number of educable female children in city	1,816
Total	3,587
Number of teachers employed in public schools	170
Number of Public School houses	107
Value of Public School property	$ 200,000
Annual amount spent for public schools	47,000
Annual valuation of property, county and city	9,322,116

In addition to this splendid equipment for free education, there are a number of high grade institutions which rank with the best of their kind in the country and receive a liberal patronage from all parts of this and other States. Among these are:

Wyatt's Business College.

The East Mississippi Female College.

The Stone Female College.

The St. Aloysius Academy, under the auspices, respectively, of the Methodist, Baptist and Catholic churches.

Religions.

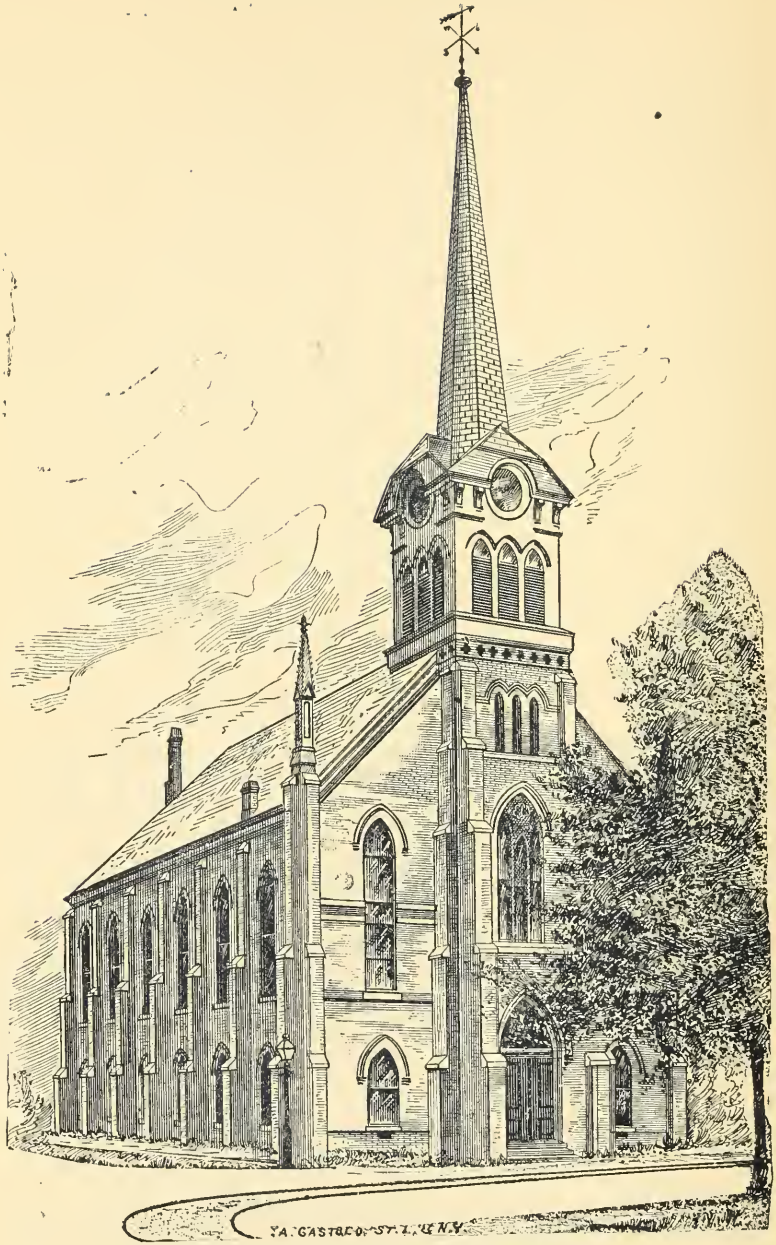
Meridian has an abundance of churches, embracing the following list: Four Methodist, six Baptist, two Presbyterian, one Episcopal, one Catholic, one Methodist Protestant, one Cumberland Presbyterian, one Christian, one German Lutheran, one Jewish Synagogue, one Orthodox Jews, and eleven negro churches, seven Baptist, three Methodist and one Congregationalist. The property is valued at $114,500. The Y. M. C. A. own their own property, valued at $3,000. There are 2,000 members of the Methodist church, about the same number, or a few more in Baptist churches, about 1,000 Presbyterians and about 1000 of the other denominations. The largest Sunday-school in the South is here, the Methodist Central having 600 scholars. A considerable majority of the population are members of the different churches.

Benevolence

Is a characteristic of this people. They do not allow any one to suffer among them. There is not a pauper or a beggar. There is no necessity to beg. If distress overtakes anyone, relief is promptly given. There are several aged poor at the county farm, but none in the city. The East Mississippi Insane Asylum is located here. It has spacious grounds. The building cost $90,000, and the property as it stands is worth $125,000. The State appropriates $35,000 per year to maintain the institution.

Finance.

As before stated, we have no millionaires and not a pauper. There are none wealthy; and few extremely poor. Wealth is divided very generally. A man is guaged by his integrity more than by his bank balance. The financial insti-



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH.

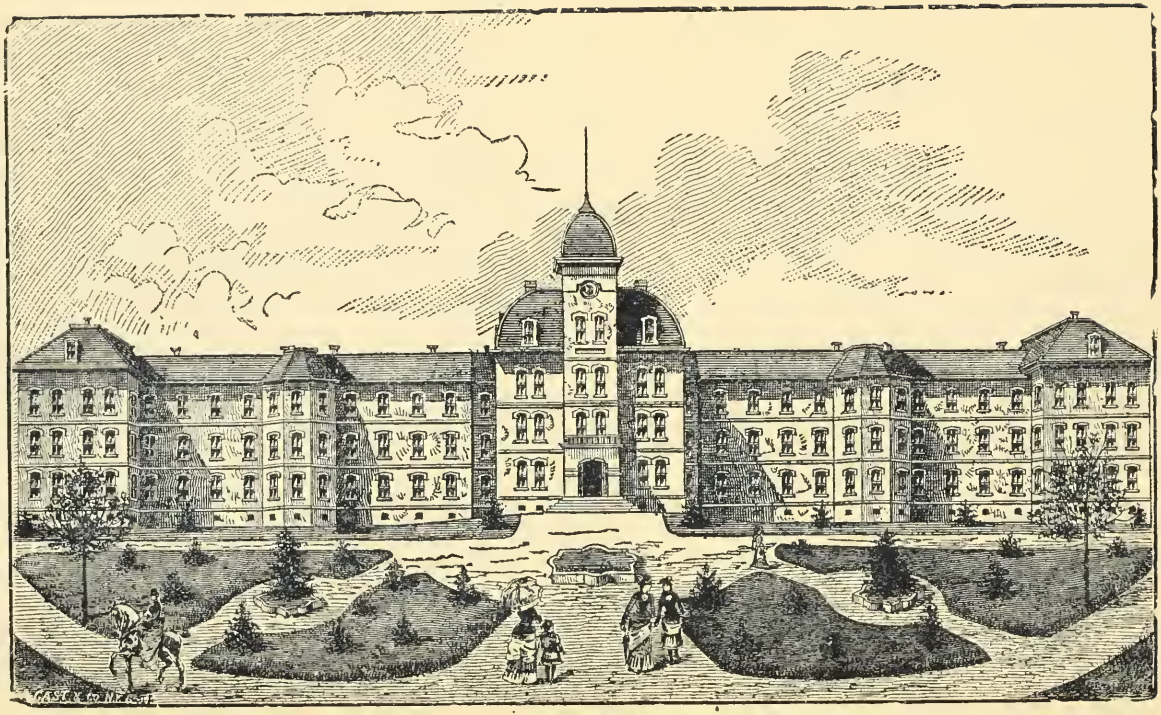
tutions are: The First National Bank, the Meridian National Bank and the Citizens Savings Bank. The aggregated capital is $450,000 and the deposits subject to check run about $750,000. The State rate of interest is 6 per cent., but the contract rate is 10 per cent. Money is in demand and opportunities are always abundant to place good loans at the latter rate. Money is needed for developing. There are three local Building and Loan Associations, all of which are very strong, two series of each having expired. They are the Mechanics, the Savings and the Peoples. There are several branches of national associations. These different institutions are aiding largely in building the city, as they keep no idle money.

Capital in Trade.

The wholesale trade of Meridian amounted last year to $3,500,000 and the retail trade will bring the figures to near $10,000,000. There are five wholesale grocery houses, one wholesale dry goods house and two feed and grain houses. There are about 200 retail merchants. Failures are very rare, as those who buy on time usually secure the dealer.

Building.

There are ten contractors and builders. One of these, who says his business is about an average, did $20,000 in building in 1894, and pays out about $150 a week to labor. That would make $200,000 in materials and $78,000 in pay roll. There is now under construction $39,050 in building and a little over $200,000 under contract for this season. The Federal Government has made an appropriation for an $80,000 Federal Building here, which will contain a Federal Court room.



EAST MISSISSIPPI INSANE ASYLUM.

The Cost of Living.

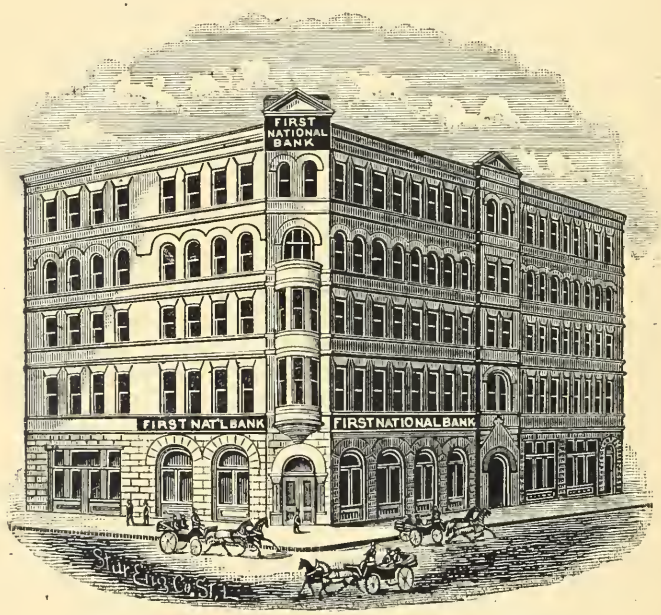
Living expenses are an important consideration in selecting a home, and the moderate cost of maintaining a family in Meridian is among the best recommendations of this city as a place of residence. The market gardens in the suburbs provide a liberal supply of seasonable vegetables at low prices, while the farmers' wagons bring daily to town an abundance of chickens, eggs, butter and other farm products that are largely sold directly to the consumer at his door. Chickens rangs in price from $1.25 to $2.50 per doz. Butter from 17 to 25 cents per pound; eggs from 8 to 25 cents per dozen, according to the season. House rent is by no means high—a comfortable cottage of five rooms may be had in a good neighborhood for $10 per month. Fuel is cheap, coal selling at from $3.25 to $3.50 per ton, and wood at from $1.50 to $2.00 per cord delivered. Good cooks may be employed at from $5.00 to $7.00 per month and other help in like proportion.

Commercial.

The sources of the commercial strength and prosperity which exist here today, and the guarantee of their continuous growth lie in the location, the environment and the rich products of the country surrounding.

A glance at the map that makes the frontispiece of this work shows that the nearest competitive point on the South is Mobile, distant 135 miles, on the west Vicksburg, 140 miles; on the east Montgomery, Ala., 160 miles, and on the north Birmingham, that is 155 miles away. Here are centered railroads piercing the intermediate territory between these cities and Meridian, and Meridian's drummers are selling goods almost at the doors of these competitors. The enterprise of our merchants, relying upon no single local source of trade, has been encouraged to avail itself of every

field open to its cultivation, and gathers tribute from the mines and fields of west Alabama, the prairie region of East Mississippi, the lumber to the South of us and the cotton that is produced on every side. Here also is found a market for large quantities of fruit and vegetables produced in the immediate vicinity of the city, and it is noticeable that this



SOUTHERN HOTEL.

contribution to local trade is annually becoming a more and more important commercial factor. It is daily meeting with more liberal encouragement, and many farmers are turning their attention to the orchard and truck patch as a means of provision for current expenses in making their cotton crops, instead of borrowing money to operate upon as has been the rule in the past. Poultry, eggs and dairy products are also no inconsiderable factors in the same direction, each contributing to relieve, very materially, the comparative dullness of summer business.

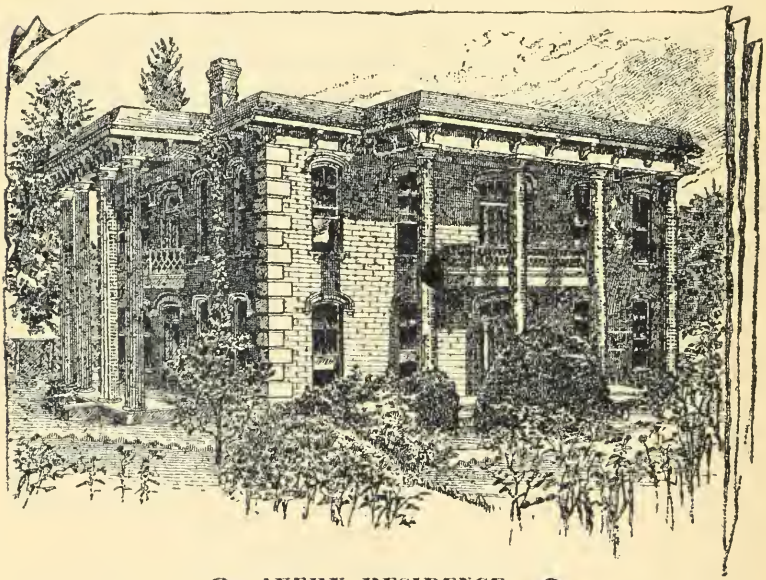
But the important fact in the consideration of Meridian's commercial development is that it goes constantly forward. The panic of 1893 could not interrupt this onward movement and the aggregate trade has shown a constant and material increase every year during the past decade.

While the energies of the people are largely devoted to building up manufactures of various kinds, no opportunity is neglected to extend the city's mercantile interests, and a large territory is annually conquered in this behalf. Every inducement is offered the farmer to bring his product here and the lumberman is convinced that Meridian affords not only a liberal market for what he has to sell, but is a first-class point at which to get the worth of the money that he spends. The country merchant is convinced that he can buy to better advantage in Meridian than in more distant markets, and the jobbing business of the city is daily assuming larger proportions.

Cotton.

The location of Meridian in the center of an extensive cotton growing district joined with its splendid transportation facilities and the excellence of the country roads that penetrate the cotton fields of adjacent counties, naturally makes this city an important market for the South's great stable. Here are found the largest cotton compresses in the State and during "the season," a number of buyers from Europe as well as the East make their headquarters here. The cotton exchange affords the same facilities that are enjoyed by larger cities for buyers and sellers, while every large merchant, wholesale or retail, handles the staple. On a fair day, at the height of the season, any stranger dropping upon the city could not but be impressed by the blockade of the streets with cotton wagons, floats and drays, and immediately draw the conclusion that "King Cotton" had by no

means been deposed in this part of the South, but still ruled with a benificent sway, the commercial destinies of an enterprising city. And right here it may be said that the adjunct factors of the South's commercial progress are in no sense designed to overthrow the royalty of its chief product, but are rather intended to supplement its dominion and strengthen its kingdom. By diversified farming and the limitation of the cotton acreage by the agriculturist and the conversion of the raw material into the manufactured article by



AVERY RESIDENCE.

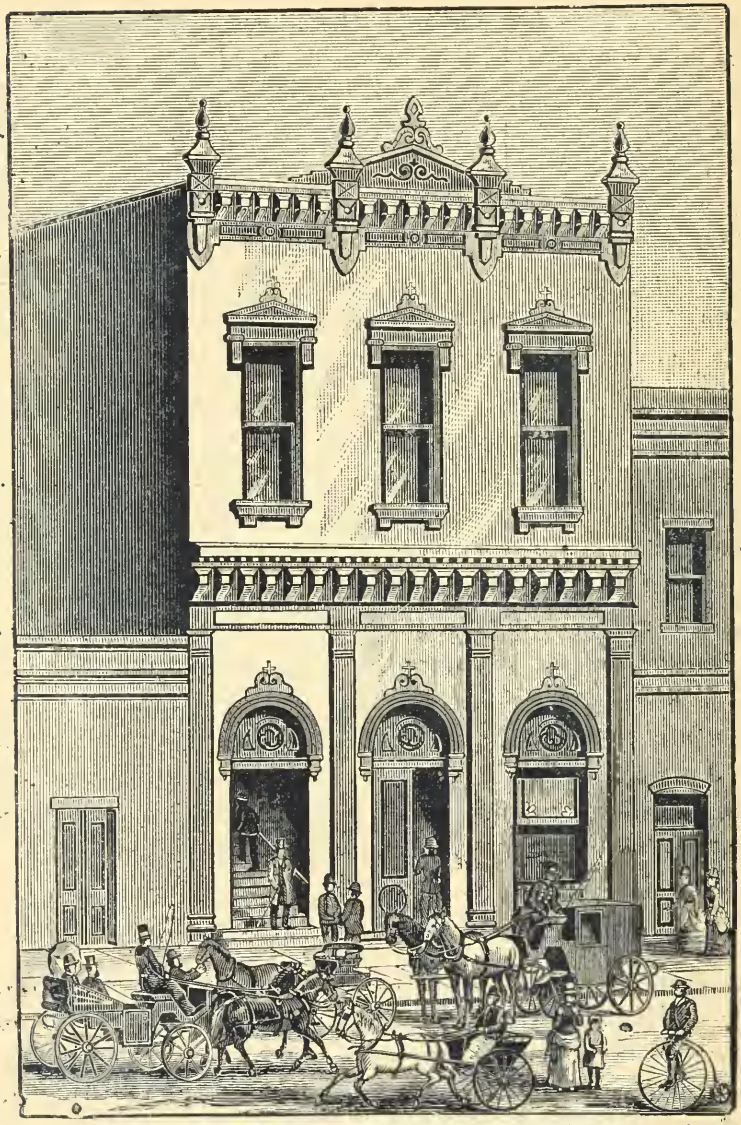
the towns, the South is not weakening but strengthening the dominion of cotton and making it more and more a source of its commercial prosperity. And it is noticeable, that notwithstanding the agricultural departure of recent years in the direction of more diversified crops and a home-making of the things consumed upon the farm, a more intensified system of farming and a more diminished reliance upon cotton for every need, the staple continues to make annually

a more important factor in Meridian's trade. The receipts for the season of 1894-95 up to the first of May aggregated nearly 100,000 bales, fifty per cent more than the total receipts of the year previous. Indeed, except for a logical reduction in a single year, due to a short crop, the records show a constant and continuous growth of cotton receipts since the cotton exchange was organized twelve years ago. In recent years the volume of the business has aggregated between $2,500,000 to $3,000,000 annually, most of which has gone into the channels of local trade.

In addition to this royal contribution to our commercial prosperity, cotton seed find here a market at the best prices; two of the best equipped oil mills in the South being located in Meridian, and when the oil is expressed for shipment, much of the product is returned again to the fields in the shape of cotton seed meal, for fertilizing purposes, and the hulls from the seed sell at from $3.50 to $4.00 per ton. These by-products of the cotton crop of the South have never been sufficiently considered in the estimate of our crop values, because they happen to be overshadowed by their greater and parent product. Meridian and the farmers of East Mississippi, however, know its worth and appreciate its contribution, both to commercial and agricultural wealth.

Cotton Manufacture.

Elsewhere have been noted some of the advantages possessed by this city for the establishment of factories. It has been sought to show how capital invested in almost any line of manufacture might count on certain advantages not elsewhere obtainable. We have also given a list of those enterprises covering a large variety of product already in successful operation here. We have shown that no undertaking along this line, properly directed, has failed.



MERIDIAN NATIONAL BANK.

But Meridian has no cotton factory. And yet it may be doubted if there is a single point in the whole South where the opportunities for the successful operation of such an en-

terprise are greater. The absence of this important factor in our industrial and commercial economy is inexplicable except upon the ground that our local capital has been profitably occupied in other directions and no sufficient advertisement of our advantages for profitable cotton manufacture has been made abroad.

The essential factors in the success of any manufacturing enterprise in any locality are:

1st. Cheap and desirable raw material.

2nd. Minimum cost of motive power.

3rd. An adequate supply of reliable labor at reasonable wages.

4th. Reasonable freight rates and abundant transportation facilities.

5th. The absence of legislation embarrassing the relations of capital and labor.

6th. The temper and attitude of the people towards the enterprise undertaken.

7th. Taxation.

8th. A healthful locality.

If these are, as we assume them to be, the chief considerations of capital in seeking investment in cotton manufacture, then Meridian should be second to no city in the South in its output of cotton fabrics. To each question suggested by the above enumeration, only a favorable answer could be returned.

We have here the Orleans upland cotton at a minimum price.

The cost of steam coal is less than $2.00 per ton.

There has never been a strike in any factory in Meridian.

Our freight rates are better than most interior towns enjoy, by reason of our proximity to water transportation.

There is not a single act upon our statute books that interferes with the rights of the employer of labor.

The public spirit of the city is eager and alert to secure the establishment of factories, and free sites are cheerfully given.

All factories are exempt from taxation for a period of ten years by constitutional enactment.

The facts and figures given in preceding pages establish the healthfulness of the city and place it, in this respect, in the front rank of American cities.

These things considered, only an investigation of the advantages that Meridian possesses is asked of those contemplating investment in Southern cotton manufacture, to convince them that no more desirable point for such enterprise could be found in the United States.

East Mississippi.

Its Agricultural, Stock Raising and Lumber Resources.

Throughout East Mississippi diversified farming is rapidly becoming the rule. There are here a few large plantations, devoted exclusively to cotton, and nowhere does the plantation system of cultivation prevail. The farmers, as a rule, own the lands that they cultivate, and wherever intelligence and thrift guide the conduct of the farm, comfort and abundance are found. Lands are very cheap. Good farms can be bought from five to ten dollars per acre appreciating in value, however, in direct ratio with proximity to market and quality of soil and improvements thereon. Well improved places within a few miles of town can be purchased for fifteen dollars per acre. This low price is attributable to the fact that there is a great abundance of unimproved land that may be had as low as two dollars per acre. In addition to this there are many thousand acres throughout East Mississippi yet capable of Homestead entry, and for the benefit of those seeking free homes we give the following

SYNOPSIS OF THE HOMESTEAD LAWS AS RENDERED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED MARCH 3, 1891, SHOWING HOW TO OBTAIN LANDS.

Under the Homestead Act, a citizen, or one who has declared his intention of becoming such, and who is not the owner or proprietor of 160 acres of land, in any state or territory, can homestead 160 acres by filing his application and affidavit at the Local Land Office, and within six months thereafter commencing settlement and improvement

and continuing the same for five years. The only cost is the United States Land Office fees, which are from $18 to $22 per 160 acres. After the expiration of 14 months from the date of entry the law allows the homesteader to secure a title to the tract, if so desired, by paying for it in cash at the rate of $1.25 per acre on making proof of settlement, residence and cultivation for that period. A soldier having served in the United States Army or Navy, during the late war between the States, for over 90 days, can obtain 160 acres of any of the public lands by filing (himself or by his attorney) a declaratory statement, and within six months following, filing his affidavit and application, commencing settlement and cultivation, and continuing the same for five years, less the time he served in the army or navy, but such time in no case to exceed four years. His widow can take advantage of the above. In case of his death in the army, or discharge therefrom, on account of wounds or disability incurred in the line of duty, the term of his enlistment is deducted. In case of death of a soldier, his widow, if unmarried, or in case of her death, or marriage, then his minor orphan children, by a guardian duly appointed and officially accredited at the Department of the Interior, shall be entitled to all the benefits given soldiers under Homestead laws. An unmarried woman of age can take the benefit of the Homestead law; if she marries before she has acquired title and continues her residence on her claim, she can proceed to prove up at the proper time, the same as if she had remained single, but husband and wife cannot secure separate tracts by maintaining separate residences at the same time. All sons and daughters of a family, who are of age, are entitled to take up land under the United States Land Laws. The Pre-emption Laws and the Timber culture Acts were repealed by an Act of the 51st Congress.

THE PINE BELT.

From Meridian to Mobile, a distance of 135 miles and from Merdian to New Orleans is what is known as the Pine Belt. The country is covered with long-leaf yellow pine. The country is rolling, but not hilly, and abounds in springs brooks and creeks of clear, pure water as soft as melted snow. The large trees in this section have been taken out by the saw mill men, and where the fields have not been cleared the country is covered with pine trees under fifteen inches in diameter, and is free from underbrush. The soil is a sandy loam, underlaid with a clay sub-soil, and for the best success in agriculture needs to be fertilized. This however, can be done without buying artificial fertilizers, as two crops of clover or field peas can be grown in a season, adding great fertility to the soil. In this whole region you can produce from two to three crops each year. It is as well adapted to fruit-raising as any portion of America, and all farm crops can be grown successfully and profitably.

The diversity of products, the equable climate, the equal and favorable seasons, the distribution of rainfall and the freedom from the ravages of the devastating insects that prey upon the crops of other sections, all combine to make this a favored region for the remunerative employment of the energies of the farmer. Aside from cotton everywhere a staple in the South, we may note a few advantages that are enjoyed for the cultivation of other crops in this favored region.

HAY. No portion of the North has as favorable conditions for the production of hay as the South. Many Northern people are inclined to answer this assertion by asking why the South during the past years has purchased immense quantitities of hay from the North. That has simply been done because many of the Southern planters were devoting their entire attention to the one crop of cotton, and pur-

chasing the food necessary for themselves and stock. That day is rapidly passing away, and to-day you can find along the Mobile and Ohio Railroad as good grass pastures and as fine clover fields as can be found anywhere.

Red Clover. A greater variety of clovers can be grown in the South than in the North, and there is but little difference between the different varieties. Red clover is not a success in the pine region. In the prairie region of Mississippi it is as successful and produces more hay than the North. The price of the hay will average $15.00 per ton. The yield will often reach 5038 pounds of dry hay per acre. At least another ton of hay can be cut from such fields the same year before August 28th. Is it possible anywhere in the North to produce two tons and a half of clover hay from an acre in a little over seven months from the time the seed is sown? The value of red clover as a soil renovator is too well understood to need comment here.

Mexican Clover is specially adapted to sandy soils. It seeds itself and comes up after crops are laid by. It makes a rank growth till late in the season, and yields fully two tons of excellent hay per acre, coming in as a second crop.

Melilotus, on lands that are rich in lime, is the most valuable of all the clover family either for hay, pastures, or for restoring worn out lands. The roots of the melilotus penetrate deeper into the soil than other clovers, and the mechanical action on the soil is of very great value in addition to the fertility imparted. The seed is sown in the spring, and the growth is sufficient to give one or two cuttings for hay by fall, and three cuttings the following year.

Japan Clover when once established reseeds itself annually, coming late in the spring and affording most excellent summer pastures until frost. It is relished by all farm animals, and thrives during hot, dry weather of summer. If cut for hay it will make from two to three tons per acre. It

succeeds on almost any kind of soil, and will do fairly well on soils too poor for the growth of any other clover.

Burr Clover makes its principal growth in the winter and early spring. It matures its seeds in May and then dies. It is of special value to grow with late maturing clovers or grasses, thus affording pasture almost the entire year.

Alfalfa succeeds as well in East Mississippi as it does in the West. It can be cut four times during the year, and will make a ton or more of choice hay to the acre at each cutting. It makes a fine winter pasture. An acre will produce ten bushels of seed worth five dollars per bushel.

Crimson Clover is a valuable plant that is a great success on the light sandy soils of this section, either for hay or as a soil restorative. The hay is almost equal to bran for feeding, and from one to two tons can be made from an acre of very poor land.

The Cow Pea is exceedingly valuable, whether grown for enriching the soil, for hay or for the crop of peas. Two crops can be grown each year. It does not seem to be affected by hot weather or drouth.

With all these valuable plants of the clover family the Southern farmer is in a much better position to cheaply renovate worn out soil and to maintain the fertility of his lands, and can produce a larger crop of hay that is worth more per ton than the Northern farmer.

Truck Farming.

This important industry was begun about five years ago on a very small scale and from a shipment of a few boxes has grown until the shipments are now in car load lots. English Peas, Beans, Irish Potatoes, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Sweet Corn, Turnips, and Sweet Potatoes all prove profitable, and are marketed in time to plant Corn or other crops. Strawberries have been shipped in small quantities with good

results and the soil found to be specially adapted to them, having a clay sub-soil. Peaches, Apples, Grapes and Plums are all gown successfully and a number of persons are setting out good sized orchards.

Profitable farming is demonstrated by Fred Kamper, who lives fifteen miles from Meridian, Miss. Mr. Kamper is a man of means, and one whose word is never doubted by those who know him. He owns several farms and is making them all pay by cultivating them in an intelligent progressive manner. He is raising a good deal of thoroughbred stock, and has his home surrounded with an abundance of flowers and fruit.

Last year he made over 3,000 gallons of syrup from five acres of ribbon cane. This is the cane from which sugar is made, and it succeeds well on all of the lands in the vicinity of Meridian. Nearly every farmer will grow a patch of this cane, usually about an eighth of an acre, from which he can make all the syrup needed on the farm during the year, and usually have some to sell. Many farmers also manufacture their own sugar.

Mr. Kamper had a photograph taken of a field of corn that yielded seventy-five bushels of corn to the acre. This was grown after a crop of English peas was raised and harvested. The English peas were not as profitable this year as usual, on account of being injured by a late frost, and only gave a net return of twenty-five dollars per acre, after paying for the fertilizer and all other expenses connected with growing and marketing the crops. This leaves the corn crop all clear profit in addition to the twenty-five dollars per acre made on the peas. The corn will be harvested in time to get a crop of volunteer grass that will make at least a ton of hay to the acre.

Last year this same field produced a crop of English peas that gave a net profit of eighty dollars per acre above all ex-

penses of fertilizing and shipping, and the corn grown as a second crop produced 108 bushels per acre.

The experience of Mr. Kamper is cited to indicate the possibilities of farming in this section, not as an average result. Success in this direction, here, as well as elsewhere, depends upon many things besides the soil; but given equal energy, intelligence and industry, there is no reason why the same results should not be achieved by any one.

Irish potatoes are grown very largely by the truck farmers throughout East Mississippi. They are planted from the middle of January to the first of March and are harvested from the first of May until the middle of June. The crop is thus removed from the ground in ample time for the production of a second crop. Irish potatoes, in this section, are never troubled by the Colorado beetle, which causes so much damage in the potato fields in the North. The average production is from fifty to 100 barrels per acre. Prices vary with the seasons. Some years they are sold as high as $4 or $5 per barrel, delivered at the railroad stations, and other seasons as low as $2; but they return a good average profit and can be produced with as great ease as any of the crops grown by the truck farmers. It is the custom with a great many potato growers to save the small potatoes from the early crop and grow a late crop that will often-times bring a greater profit than the first. The early potatoes will not keep over until the next year, but the late crop will keep longer than those grown in the North. Where two crops of potatoes are grown on the same land in the year the second crop is removed in time to produce a crop of turnips or ruta-bagas

Interesting Correspondence.

The following correspondence pertinent to the agricultural, climatic and other conditions of the South applies

peculiarly to East Mississippi, and we here produce it with acknowledgments to Mr. E. E. Posey, General Passenger Agent of the M. & O. R. R., than whom no one has done more to present the South in a fair and just light to home-seekers:

CENTRE POINT, CLAY COUNTY, IND., March 4, 1894.

Mr. E. E. Posey, General Passenger Agent, Mobile & Ohio Railroad, Mobile, Ala.:

DEAR SIR—Yours of recent date received. I was very much pleased with your description of that part of the country, but would like to know more about it. I am a man of moderate means, and would like to know what kind of employment I could get there.

Are there any saw mills in that part of the country, so if a man took some of the timbered land he could get his logs sawed? At what price does the pine lumber sell? Is the water supplied by springs or do people dig wells? Is the water warm or cold? Is it foggy in that part of the country, and are the mosquitoes bad? Can you find any wild game, nuts and berries in the forests there? Would a nursery pay in that part of the country? How long would it take two men to clear ten acres of that pine land? Does the pine make good fire wood, or what is used for fuel? Is there any coal in that part of the country? What is the average price of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry? Would it pay a man better to ship his furniture, stock and farm implements, or buy them there? Are there any churches or schools, and what is the average price paid teachers? Will the land produce good crops without fertilizing, and what is used for fertilizing? What would you consider the best investment for a man of small capital? What kind of improvements are usually found on the places for sale? Are the houses made of lumber or logs? Is it an unhealthy cli-

mate, or what is the cause of such cheap farms? Would a fruit farm be profitable, or could milk and butter be made profitable? Is yellow fever prevalent in that region of country? Is there any government land to be obtained there? Do you have any severe storms there, cyclones and such? Is the society good?

Please answer my numerous questions as I am greatly interested in the country and want to know all about it. Please let me hear from you soon.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. C. AMBROSE,
Centre Point, Clay County, Ind.

MOBILE & OHIO RAILROAD.

GENERAL PASSENGER DEPARTMENT,
MOBILE, ALA., March 8, 1894.

Mr. A. C. AMBROSE, Centre Point, Clay County, Ind.:

DEAR SIR—Replying to yours of March 4th. There is no portion of America where the conditions are so favorable for a man of moderate means as the South. Lands being cheap, with an opportunity for twelve months out-door labor, a garden all winter, and the best fuel in the world costing nothing, gives a man an opportunity to secure a large income from his labor with very small expenses. There are saw mills every few miles all along the line of our road. Pine lumber is very cheap as compared with the prices in the North, ranging in price from $5 to $10 per thousand feet, with an opportunity to secure cull lumber suitable for fencing, sheds, etc., at any of the mills free. There is no better water in the world than that to be found along our road, whether from wells, springs, or brooks. Wells are from fifteen to thirty feet deep; the water is pure, soft and cold.

Fogs are rare. Mosquitoes, flies and snakes are not as numerous as they are in your State. There is probably no place affording better opportunities for hunting and fishing than this region. The streams are full of the choicest fish. During the winter season, quail, partridges, wild turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, opossums and coons are very numerous, and back a few miles from the railroad you can find deer and other game. Along the streams you will find plenty of hickory-nuts, walnuts and pecans, while dewberries, blackberries, strawberries, plums and grapes are plentiful everywhere.

The country is settling up rapidly, and every one is setting out more or less fruit, and the few nurseries along the line of the road are making money.

The usual method of clearing up the pine land is to cut down and burn up the trees, and after a few months, when the stumps get dry, dig around them a little and burn them out. This can be done rapidly and cheaply. There is no better fuel than the yellow pine. All of the old logs and dead trees and stumps are what is called "lightwood," being so full of rosin and tar that you can light a log of it with a match. A few pieces will make a very hot fire. There is no coal along the line of our road, but in the central part of Alabama there are large coal fields of the very finest kinds of coal. All kinds of stock is from twenty-five to fifty per cent higher in the South than in the North, and yet it does not cost more than half as much to raise stock in this country.

You can charter a car to carry your movables, including ten head of stock and one attendant, at very low rates, and I would advise you by all means to bring your household furniture, farm implements and some young stock with you. You will find churches and schools numerous in all of the small towns along the line, although the school system of

the South is not as perfect, and I think the price paid teachers is somewhat lower than in the North.

The land through the prairie region of Eastern Mississippi is very rich and productive, while the land in the pine region requires fertilizing. By plowing under clovers and field peas it is an easy matter to produce big crops at very little trouble and expense for the fertilizing, and as you can grow three crops every year from the same land the little expense of fertilizer will not be considered any hardship.

The best investment for a man of small capital is to buy a small place and grow fruits and vegetables for the Northern markets. I think more money can be made in this way than in any other. Many men who began truck farming in this region a few years ago with very limited means have grown wealthy. The improved places for sale will usually have a number of acres cleared and a comfortable frame house with a number of small tenant houses. The death rate of Mississippi and Alabama is as low as any States in the Union. Fruit of all kinds is very profitable, and so is stock-raising and dairying. Milk sells from thirty to forty cents per gallon, and good butter from twenty-five to forty cents per pound the year round. There has been no yellow fever in this section for many years. It is not produced in this country, but is brought here from the South American ports, and it is only necessary to have careful quarantine arrangements to keep it out. In case the quarantine officers become careless and allow it to get a foothold it is not allowed to spread over the country as it was in former years. The death rate from yellow fever is from six to seven out of each hundred cases. It never spreads through the country, and if people keep half a mile away from it they are perfectly safe. The quarantine regulations are so perfect at the gulf ports that yellow fever will probably never again gain a foothold in this region.

There is a great deal of government land along the line of the road subject to homestead entry. The country is not visited with such severe storms as you have in the North. The Southern people are the most hospitable and open-hearted to be found anywhere, and gladly welcome all respectable people from any part of the country.

Trusting that you will come down to look our country over, and will remain long enough to thoroughly investigate the conditions and possibilities of this country, and assuring you that if you do so you will be pleased and will find a satisfactory location, I am

Very truly yours,

E. E. Posey, Gen. Pass. Agent.

Forest Products.

One of the most inviting fields for the investment of capital in East Mississippi is found in the lumber business. There are still standing in this section many thousand acres of virgin forest untouched by the axe, notwithstanding the enormous output of the mills along the railroads during the past ten years. The extent of this business, its contribution to the wealth of the State and the number of people obtaining a livelihood out of it are not appreciated by the average statistician, because it has slowly and almost imperceptibly grown over a constantly widening area and the absence of any striking concentration at any point has contributed to obscure its importance and dimensions in the eyes of the casual observer.

But those who live in the midst of this activity and realize the value of its contribution to local wealth, who see villages and towns springing up around the mill centres, along the railroads, and thousands of people receiving their weekly

wages from the mills, while the land owner receives for the trees upon his land frequently more than the land originally cost him, and the small farmer finds in the woods or at the mill employment not only for himself but for his teams also, during the idle season; those who see things have a genuine appreciation of the magnitude and importance of our lumber interests.

Nor is the development of this interest confined entirely to the sawing of rough lumber. In nearly every town there are shingle and planing mills for the finishing of the saw mill product, while in Meridian several large factories, as previously noted, are devoted exclusively to the manufacture of wood products, and nearly every investment in this direction has proved a profitable one.

While the pine is the chief basis of our lumber industry, it is by no means the only source of wealth afforded by the forests of East Mississippi. The turpentine and rosin product is no mean contribution to the wealth of the rural districts

The hard woods, in infinite variety, such as hickory, oak, ash, gum, etc., abound, in large quantity, throughout East Mississippi, and a ready market is found for such forest product at goot prices.

Stock Raising.

The prairie region of East Mississippi has demonstrated its adaptability to enterprise in this direction in the splendid results realized by those, who, of late years, have given their cotton fields largely to pasturage and to forage crops. Splendid specimens of home raised horses, mules and cows are exhibited at the annual fairs, and the small cost of their rearing is a revelation to those engaged in the same business elsewhere. In the pine region, nearer Meridian, a splendid natural pasturage is found, in the woods, for hogs and cattle

all the year round. The "mast" is abundant and the wild cane, growing in "the bottoms" along the numerous creeks and rivers that water all of this section, affords the best of winter pasturage for cows, reducing the cost of their keep during the winter months to a minimum. It is a fact that many farmers do not feed milch cows at any season of the year where the wild cane abounds, the pasturage keeping this class of stock in good condition.

The raising of hogs and cattle, both for home consumption and the market, is annually receiving more attention, as the advantages of making cotton the surplus cash crop are being better realized by our farmers. Hundreds of farmers in the territory tributary to Meridian last year not only made at home all the bacon, hams and lard required for their own and their hands' use; but sold a considerable surplus to merchants in Meridian and elsewhere. There is always here a splendid market for these home made hog products, they being generally esteemed better than the Western product. The butchers in Meridian buy largely of the beef cattle raised in the country adjacent, and always pay good prices for steers, cows and calves that are in condition for slaughtering.

W. W. GEORGE, President. EDWIN McMORRIES, Cashier.
JNO. KAMPER, Vice-President. H. L. BARDWELL, Asst. Cashier.
C. W. ROBINSON, 2nd Vice-President.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Largest and Strongest National Bank

IN

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Capital, - - - - -	$130,000
Surplus, not including profits, - -	100,000
Total, - - - -	$230,000

Accounts of Farmers, Merchants and Others Solicited.

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Have money to loan.
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THE

Meridian National Bank,

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Capital, - - -	$100,000.00
Surplus, - - -	50,000.00
Undivided Profits, - -	15,000.00

DIRECTORS:

T. Wistar Brown, J. H. Wright,
B. F. Ormond, A. B. Wagner,
I. Marks, G. Q. Hall,
Geo. S. Covert, J. A. Wetherbee,
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Among the stockholders are T. Wistar Brown, of the Provident Life and Trust Co, and John Farnum & Co., Philadelphia; G. M. Troutman, President of the Central National Bank, Philadelphia; S. G. Bayne, President Seaboard National Bank of New York City; Jos. Seep, of the Standard Oil Co.; John McKeown, capitalist, Bradford, Pa.; Chas Smith, capitalist, Philadelphia.

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THE MISSISSIPPI

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The Best Prices Paid for Cotton Seed.

Cotton Seed Meal Loose and Baled Hulls for Sale or Exchanged for Cotton Seed on Liberal Basis.

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GEORGE'S HORSE FEED.

It is used without hay or any roughness. A horse can be fed on this feed for $5 per month with better results than on grain, hay, etc., at $10 per month.

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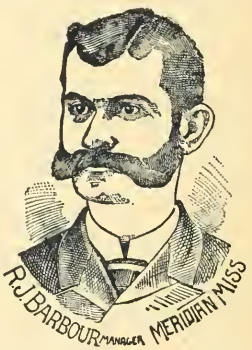

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Leading and Largest Garden Seed Dealers in East Mississippi
One thousand (1000) pounds, eight varieties, fine 1895 crop Turnip Seed for Fall and Winter planting just received at prices surpassingly low.

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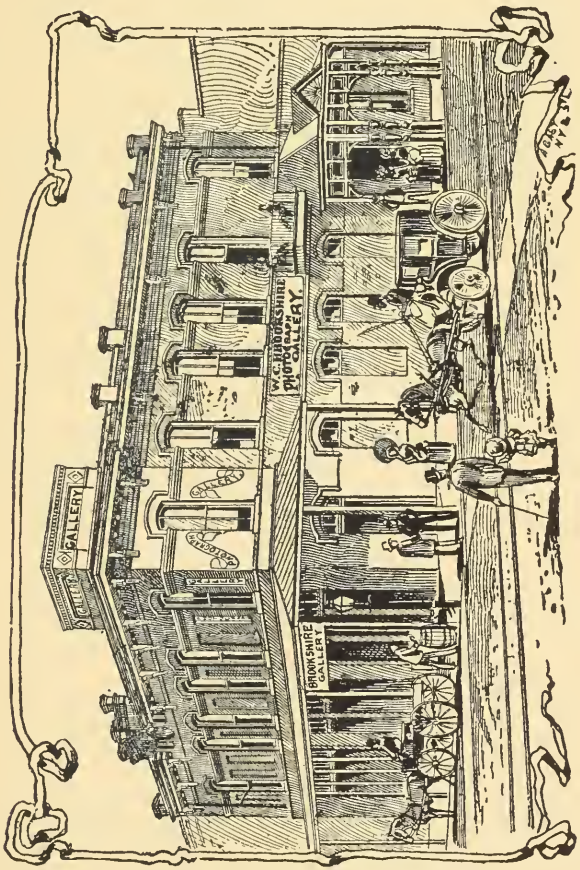

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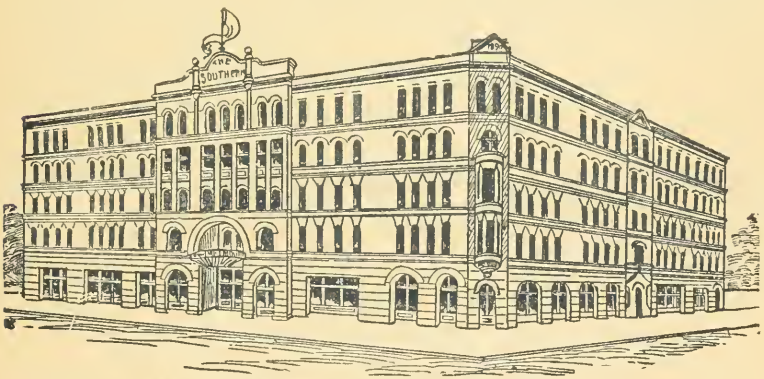

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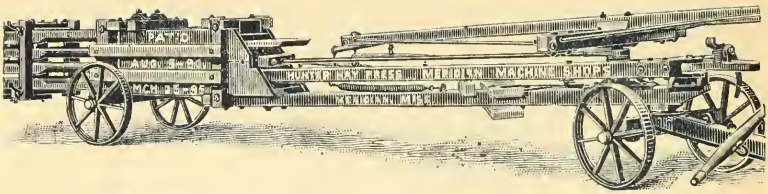

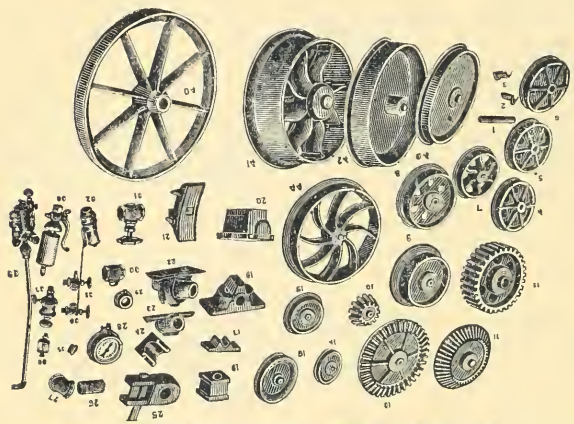

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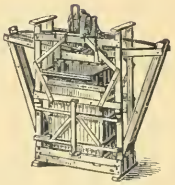

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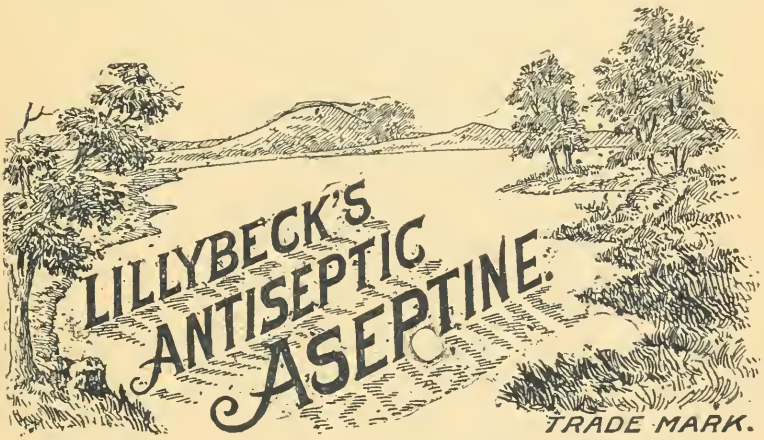

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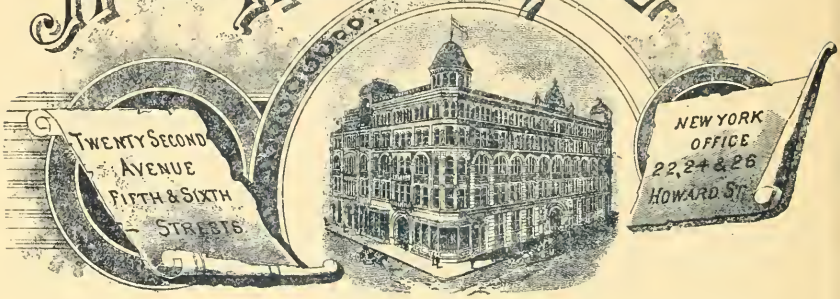

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For All Domestic and Manufacturing Purposes

AT A TRIFLING COST.

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